UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1992/NGO/26
4 February 1992

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-eighth Session
Agenda item 17

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON ITS FORTY-THIRD SESSION

Written statement submitted by Baha'i International Community, Friends World Committee for Consultation, International Association for Religious Freedom, International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty, International Commission of Jurists, International Council of Jewish Women, Lutheran World Federation and Pax Romana, non-governmental organizations in consultative status (category II) and World Union for Progressive Judaism, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[24 January 1992]

Statement by non-governmental organizations urging the Commission on Human Rights to support Sub-Commission recommendations on freedom of belief

1. At its forty-third session (1991), the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted resolution 1991/3 which recommended to the Commission on Human Rights:

"(a) The organization within the programme of advisory services, of a seminar on the interrelationship which exists between the enjoyment of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief and the other human rights and fundamental freedoms ...;

"(b) The organization ... of a global consultation on the positions and approaches of different religions and beliefs to human rights and fundamental freedoms".

2. As non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council we would like strongly to endorse these recommendations and encourage the Commission on Human Rights to approve them and to recommend that they be scheduled at the earliest opportunity. We believe both the seminar and the global consultation envisaged in the resolution will be a positive contribution to the elimination of intolerance and discrimination based on religion and belief.

3. The United Nations Declaration on this subject defines international standards in this field. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission assigned to this field, Mr. Angelo Vidal d'Almeida Ribeiro, reports on the implementation of the Declaration. The seminar and global consultation recommended by the Sub-Commission will provide opportunity for better understanding between non-governmental organizations, religious denominations and governmental representatives. Through dialogue new initiatives and approaches can be explored on ways of promoting religious tolerance at the local, national and international level.